



NEWSLETTER



Missouri FSA News

Summer 2014

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Dates to Remember:

- ◆ **June 15** - Nomination period opens for 2014 county committee election in select voting areas.
- ◆ **July 15** - Final date to report CRP, burley tobacco, corn, cotton, grain sorghum, hybrid seed corn, popcorn, rice, soybeans & all other spring-seeded crops.
- ◆ **August 1** - Final date to request a reconstitution-combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.
- ◆ **August 1** - Nomination forms for 2014 county committee election must be submitted.
- ◆ **Nov. 15** - Final date to report all perennial & biennial forage crops (hay/pasture) for the 2015 crop year.
- ◆ NAP crops must be reported by final reporting date or 15 days before harvest.

All upcoming deadlines are conveniently located online at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Disaster Assistance Programs Available

USDA's disaster assistance program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

FSA offices are currently taking applications for four disaster programs including Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees & Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP)-see article inside. LIP, LFP and TAP are fully funded and sign up for 2012 through 2014 losses will continue until Jan. 30, 2015. Sign up for 2012 and 2013 losses under ELAP ends Aug. 1, 2014, and for 2014 & subsequent year losses, the final date to apply for ELAP is Nov. 1, 2014.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

LFP provides compensation to eligible producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought. If you owned or cash leased eligible livestock and suffered an eligible feed loss, you may be compensated. Eligible livestock include: beef and dairy cattle, buffalo, beefalo, sheep, goats, equine, swine, poultry, deer and elk. (Claimed livestock must be for commercial purposes in a farming operation to be considered eligible.)

Drought compensation payments are equal to 60 percent of the monthly feed cost. Livestock that were sold or otherwise disposed of because of a qualifying drought (mitigated livestock) may be eligible for LFP. Contact your local office if you haven't already for details applicable to your operation.

Livestock Indemnity Program

LIP provides compensation to livestock producers who suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. An eligible livestock owner must have owned the eligible livestock on the day the livestock died. Contract growers must be in possession of the eligible livestock at the time death occurred. Eligible livestock include: beef and dairy cattle, buffalo, beefalo, sheep, swine, goats, equine, swine, poultry, deer and elk, horses, and other livestock as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees & Farm-raised Fish

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish who have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP.

To ensure maximum use of your time, please call ahead of your visit to set an appointment and to discuss any records or documentation you may need.

Acreage Reporting

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including CRP and failed acreage, is necessary to ensure you don't miss out on any FSA program benefits.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Missouri:

July 15	Burley Tobacco, Corn, Cotton, CRP, Grain Sorghum, Hybrid Seed Corn, Popcorn, Rice, Soybeans & all other Spring-Seeded Crops.
November 15	Apiculture, Pasture, Rangeland & Forage, for 2015 crop year.
December 15	Fall Barley, Fall Wheat & all other Fall-Seeded Small Grains, for 2015 crop year.
January 15	Apples, Grapes and Peaches, for 2015 crop year.
May 15	Spring Oats & Potatoes, for 2015 crop year.

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If additional acreage is acquired after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only", "green manure", "left standing", or "seed", then the acreage must be reported by July 15th.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

File reports of **failed acreage** with the County Office before disposition of the crop.

Remember to file reports of **prevented planting acreage** with the County Office no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date for that county. Final planting dates can be found on the Risk Management Agency's website at www.rma.usda.gov/fields/ks_rso/2014/final/.

eAlerts

We are able to mail this newsletter to inform you about new and continuing programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill.

We DO email an electronic newsletter every month to notify producers of current programs and opportunities.

We can also text you program updates and reminders.

Enrolling is easy! Just ask your local FSA office to sign you up for Missouri FSA eAlerts or find subscription information at www.fsa.usda.gov/mo.

Tree Assistance Program *(from pg.1)*

Orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011, can sign up for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent after adjustment for normal mortality from an eligible natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

MILC Extension and Dairy Indemnity Payment Program

The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program has been extended through Sept. 1, 2014, or until a new Margin Protection Program (MPP) is operational. Dairy operations with approved MILC contracts will continue to receive monthly payments if a payment rate is in effect.

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the extension of the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (DIPP). DIPP provides payments to dairy producers and manufacturers of dairy products when they are directed to remove raw milk or products from the market because of contamination.

Bookmark for Farm Bill Updates:
www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

May 1 - July 15	Primary nesting season for Missouri. No maintenance (mowing, spraying, burning or disking) on CRP acreage.
June 9	Sign up begins for continuous CRP and the CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP). TIP provides two additional years of payments for retired farmers & ranchers who transition expiring CRP acres to certain producers who return the land to sustainable grazing or crop production.
June 9 - Aug. 8	Producers with contracts expiring this September have the option of a one-year contract extension.

FSA Farm Loan Program Changes

Lending opportunities have been expanded for farmers and ranchers to begin and continue operations.

- Elimination of the 15 year term limit for guaranteed operating loans.
- Modification of the definition of beginning farmer, using the average farm size for the county as a qualifier instead of the median farm size.
- Modification of the Joint Financing Direct Farm Ownership Interest Rate to 2 percent less than regular Direct Farm Ownership rate, with a floor of 2.5 percent. Previously, the rate was established at 5 percent.
- Increase of the maximum loan amount for Direct Farm Ownership Down Payment Loan Program from \$225,000 to \$300,000.
- Elimination of rural residency requirement for Youth Loans.
- Debt forgiveness on Youth Loans will not prevent borrowers from obtaining additional loans from the federal government.
- Increase of the guaranteed percentage on Conservation Loans from 75 to 80 percent and 90 percent for socially disadvantaged borrowers and beginning farmers.
- Microloans will not count toward direct operating loan term limits for veterans and beginning farmers.

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County Committee Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

The COC nomination period runs from June 15, 2014, through Aug. 1, 2014. For more information contact your local FSA office. Nomination forms can be found at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

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If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.